



Australian Bureau of Statistics

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Inform NT (cat. no 1308.7) is a quarterly newsletter produced by the Northern Territory Office of the ABS. It provides information about statistical developments, training activities and statistical products relating to the Northern Territory (NT). *Inform NT* is designed to raise awareness of ABS products and services and to assist researchers, policy makers, service providers and others with an interest in the NT.

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE (QUARTER)

December 2009
March 2010
June 2010
September 2010

Release Date

21 December 2009
31 March 2010
23 June 2010
22 September 2010

INQUIRIES

For further information about this publication and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

Northern Territory Regional Director



MESSAGE FROM THE NORTHERN TERRITORY REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Acting Regional Director - Tom Joseph

ACTING REGIONAL DIRECTOR - TOM JOSEPH

I am pleased to announce that we have moved into our new office at the Civitas Building at 22 Harry Chan Avenue. Our new office features modern training rooms, efficient work areas and striking murals depicting the diversity of the Territory landscape. Please note that our phone numbers have not changed.

Our office is continuing to gear up for the 2011 Census with remote field testing recently completed in the Northern Territory and Western Australia. Our Census team would like to thank the communities involved for their willingness to assist in this very important aspect of the 2011 Census. Additional information can be found on the [ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing](#) webpage.

We would welcome feedback about *Inform NT*. If you have any comments on the newsletter or have a suggestion for an article then we would love to hear from you. Please [contact](#) us if you'd like to contribute to this publication.

Tom Joseph

Acting Regional Director

Latest Statistics



LATEST STATISTICS

Northern Territory Summary Statistics
Small Area Estimated Resident Population
Labour Force Utilisation - Two New Measures
ASGC Concordances now known as Correspondences
ANZSIC 2006 Implementation in Retail Trade
Census TableBuilder Out Now
New: Recorded Crime - Offenders

NORTHERN TERRITORY SUMMARY STATISTICS

Catalogue number	Selected data	Units	Northern Territory	Australia
3101.0	Estimated Resident Population (preliminary)(a)	'000	223.1	21 779.1
6202.0	Total Employed (Trend, August 2009)	'000	118.9	10 770.2
6202.0	Total Unemployed (Trend, August 2009)	'000	5.3	668.7
6202.0	Unemployment Rate (Trend, August 2009)	%	4.2	5.8
6202.0	Unemployment Rate (Trend, July 2009)	%	4.2	5.8
6202.0	Civilian population aged 15+ years (b)	'000	166.9	17 562.9
8731.0	Total Dwelling Units approved, % change from previous month (Trend, July 2009)	%	-2.7	1.6
8731.0	Total Dwelling Units approved, % change from previous month (Trend, June 2009)	%	–	1.9
6401.0	Consumer Price Index (CPI), % Change June Qtr 2008 to June Qtr 2009	%	2.5(c)	1.5(d)
6401.0	Consumer Price Index (CPI), % Change March Qtr 2009 to June Qtr 2009	%	1.1(c)	0.5(d)

(a) Population at end March quarter 2009.

(b) See *Labour Force Australia, August 2009* (cat. no. 6202.0), explanatory note 10.

(c) Darwin.

(d) Weighted average of eight capital cities.

– nil or rounded to zero.

For further statistics about the NT see *Regional Statistics Northern Territory, 2008* (cat. no. 1362.7).

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SMALL AREA ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION

The Northern Territory population remains predominately young and male, according to figures released in the annual *Population by Age and Sex, Australia, 2008* (cat. no. 3235.0) publication, published in August. The NT continues to have the highest sex ratio (the number of males per 100 females) of all states and territories, at 107.7, as well as the lowest median age of Australia's states and territories at 31.1 years. People aged 65 years and over are at the lowest proportions in the NT (5.1%) of all the states and territories, where nationally the proportion is 13.2%.

The most up-to-date quarterly estimated resident population (ERP) figure for the NT can be found in the Northern Territory Summary Statistics table. See *Demography News* (cat. no. 3106.0) for more demography insights.

LABOUR FORCE UTILISATION - TWO NEW MEASURES

The recent economic downturn has resulted in an increased focus on Australia's labour market, and in particular on changes in unemployment, employment and the relationship to

hours worked. While much of the recent interest has been on movements in the unemployment rate, there is considerable value in analysing other indicators, such as underemployment and hours worked, to better understand the impacts on the labour market. In response to this demand for more information on labour force utilisation, the ABS has developed two new key measures into *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0), namely: a monthly measure, *seasonally adjusted and trend aggregate monthly hours worked*; and a quarterly measure, *labour force underutilisation rate*.

The ABS produces seasonally adjusted and trend estimates for employment and unemployment from the monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS), which enhance the analysis of month-to-month movements. However, estimates of hours worked have only been produced as original estimates. This limits their usefulness in monitoring movements as hours worked as influenced by seasonality.

The new seasonally adjusted and trend estimates of *aggregate monthly hours worked* assist analysts to understand how the labour market is responding to economic challenges, for example, whether employers are reducing hours rather than retrenching employees in an attempt to reduce costs. The ABS introduced estimates of *aggregate monthly hours worked* in the July 2009 issue of *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0), available as both seasonally adjusted and trend for the period July 1985 onwards.

Figures published in the August 2009 issue of *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0) show that in Australia, seasonally adjusted aggregate monthly hours worked (total monthly hours worked by employed persons in a calendar month) declined between July 2009 (1511.7 million hours) and August 2009 (1507.7 million hours). Trend estimates for the last 12 months show a decline of 39.5 million (2.5%) aggregate monthly hours worked between August 2008 (1550.0 million hours) and August 2009 (1510.5 million hours). This is comparable to the 1508.2 aggregate monthly hours worked estimate for August 2007.

The labour force underutilisation rate is the sum of the number of persons unemployed and the number of persons in underemployment (i.e. employed persons aged 15 years and over who want, and are available for, more hours of work than they currently have), expressed as a proportion of the labour force.

Figures published in the August 2009 issue of *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0) show that in Australia, the seasonally adjusted quarterly labour force underutilisation rate was 13.6%, 11.9% for males and 15.5% for females. In the Northern Territory, the seasonally adjusted quarterly labour force underutilisation rate was 8.4%, 9.1% for males and 7.5% for females.

For more information see *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0) and *Information Paper: Expansion of Hours Worked Estimates from the Labour Force Survey, Australia, 2009* (cat. no. 6290.0.55.001).

ASGC CONCORDANCES NOW KNOWN AS CORRESPONDENCES

Australian Standard Geographical Classifications (ASGC) Correspondences, July 2009 (cat. no. 1216.0.15.002) was released in July this year with a name change from *Australian Standard Geographical Classifications (ASGC) Concordances*. This publication plays a vital role in the ASGC suite of publications by providing a common framework of statistical geography that enables the production of statistics that are comparable. This new product contains four separate correspondence files as comma delimited text files and is effective from 1 July 2009.

ANZSIC 2006 IMPLEMENTATION IN RETAIL TRADE

The information paper *ANZSIC 2006 Implementation in Retail Trade, July 2009* (cat. no. 8501.0.55.006) was released in August this year with *Retail Trade, Australia, Jun 2009* (cat. no. 8501.0). The *2006 Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification* (ANZSIC) (cat. no. 1292.0), provides a contemporary and internationally-comparable industrial classification system. This information paper sets out changes made to the retail trade publication due to the revision of the industry classification, which takes effect from the July reference month.

CENSUS TABLEBUILDER OUT NOW

The Census product *TableBuilder, 2006* (cat. no. 2065.0) was released on August 28. TableBuilder is an excellent tool for research as it provides access to all variables contained in the 2006 Census Output Record File and allows you to add any combination of variables to your table. Users can create tables of up to five million cells, make faster selection of data items, and choose to count persons, families or dwellings at the geographical areas most suited to their needs.

TableBuilder is a subscription only service and will cost \$1,655 (incl. GST). This price is an individual user price for a single Census reference cycle. Each registration remains valid for the life of the product and includes access to training and ongoing helpline support.

For more information, please see the TableBuilder [promotional flyer](#).

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NEW: RECORDED CRIME - OFFENDERS

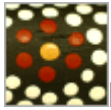
A new ABS recorded crime publication is now available. The publication provides Northern Territory statistics on the number of alleged offenders aged 10 years and over who were proceeded against by police during 2007–08.

Recorded Crime - Offenders, selected states & territories, 2007-08 (cat. no. 4519.0) has been compiled using data from state and territory police administrative systems and shows that police in the Northern Territory (NT) proceeded against 7,961 offenders in 2007–08. For Australia (excluding Western Australia), there were a total of 295,642 offenders proceeded against by police during this period. At state level, the rate (*Statistical Language, 2008* (cat.no. 1332.0.55.002), of offenders dealt with by police ranged from 1,050 offenders per 100,000 people aged 10 years and over in Victoria to 4,372 offenders per 100,000 people aged 10 years and over in the Northern Territory.

While public order offences and acts intended to cause injury were the two main principal offences for both males and females, there was a notable difference in the female proportion for each offence type. Females were more commonly proceeded against than males for public order offences as their principal offence (46% of females compared to 28% of males). Males were more commonly proceeded against than females for acts intended to cause injury as their principal offence (28% of males compared to 18% of females).

For more information on the NT go to the [NT page](#) of this publication.

Developments in ABS Statistics



DEVELOPMENTS IN ABS STATISTICS

[Change to Information Consultancy Services](#)

[Indigenous Statistics for Schools](#)

[ABS Website Help](#)

[2011 Census Remote Indigenous Test](#)

[Community Indicators Summit](#)

[COAG and the ABS Data Quality Framework](#)

CHANGE TO INFORMATION CONSULTANCY SERVICES

Looking for tailored information from the ABS? The ABS has changed the way it provides its [information consultancy service](#).

Improved access and growth in the availability of free statistics on the ABS website has contributed to a reduced demand for information consultancy services supported by the several ABS offices across Australia. In order to ensure that NT-based clients retain access to an expert service which guarantees quality and responsive outputs, the Information Consultancy service will now be provided by the Western Australian office of the ABS.

Although the NT office has ceased providing a customised data service locally, experienced staff across Australia are available to help you with your data needs and will have access to NT-specific knowledge. If you would like to discuss this change further please contact Debbie Goodwin (Director - Client and Statistical Services, Northern Territory) on (08) 8943 2105.

Information Consultancy services can be accessed by contacting the National Information Referral Service on 1300 135 070 (local call) or contact the WA Information Consultancy team directly on 1800 151 913 (toll free). For Indigenous data requests contact National Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics (NCATSIS) on 1800 633 216.

INDIGENOUS STATISTICS FOR SCHOOLS

[Indigenous statistics](#) is a new dedicated web resource for schools that provides a single easy resource for students and teachers to learn about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations. This resource was developed to assist in building statistical skills and knowledge in schools and covers the importance of Indigenous statistics, Indigenous identification and topics such as population, education, work, housing and health.

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ABS WEBSITE HELP

Ever have trouble finding what you need on the ABS website? If so, you'll probably welcome some of the changes we have recently made (and have planned) for the website.

We've improved the [Help Index](#), making it much easier for you to find the specific help you need. We've also added 10 online tutorials covering some of our clients' most frequently asked questions: [Navigating and Searching the ABS Website](#); [How to Find Consumer Price](#)

[Index \(CPI\) Data](#); [Finding Indigenous Data](#); [Understanding ABS Geography](#); and a series of six tutorials on [Understanding CData Online](#). Each tutorial runs for 3-5 minutes and is a great way to get up to speed with some of the concepts used in the ABS.

More online help is being developed during 2009-10, including a suite of self-help modules on Indigenous topics, aimed at helping those using Indigenous data for research and policy making.

2011 CENSUS REMOTE INDIGENOUS TEST

The ABS has recently completed the successful enumeration of several Top End communities in East Arnhem Land and the Kimberley region in Western Australia as part of a Remote Indigenous Census Test (RIT). The test was conducted in selected communities from 17 August to 11 September 2009 and aimed to trial new interviewer forms and procedures as well as the ABS' Remote Area Mobile Team (RAMT) strategy.

The RAMT strategy, based on the Australian Electoral Commission mobile polling teams, utilises a team-based approach and is designed to shorten the time it takes to count the people in a community, improve Census coverage in remote areas, reduce the under-enumeration of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population group, and increase the quality of Census data.

The remote test follows on from the [urban test conducted earlier this year](#) and is the final test before the main dress rehearsal next year. Data collected will be used for test evaluation purposes only. These evaluations assist in determining which strategies and procedures are best able to help improve remote population counts for the 2011 Census.

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COMMUNITY INDICATORS SUMMIT

Community-based indicators are becoming a hot topic as the global discussion around developing a measure of well-being beyond an economic gains impetus. The Community Indicators Summit was held in Brisbane on the 22-23 July 2009, focussing on "Measuring the Progress of Australian Communities" and hosted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The Summit was held in cooperation with the OECD-hosted "Global Project on Measuring the Progress of Societies". The Summit Outcomes and Declaration will be presented at the 3rd World Forum on Statistics, Knowledge, Policy "Charting Progress, Building Visions, Improving Life", which is being held in Busan, Korea from October 27-30, 2009 (www.oecd.org).

Presentations from the Community Indicators Summit are available at the [National Statistical Service \(NSS\) website](#).

COAG AND THE ABS DATA QUALITY FRAMEWORK

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Reform Council will be using the ABS Data Quality Framework (DQF) to analyse and report on performance indicators for the COAG National Agreements. The latest [National Statistical Service \(NSS\) Newsletter](#) contained the news and provided an excellent summary of the DQF which was released by the ABS in May this year, [ABS Data Quality Framework, May 2009](#) (cat. no. 1520.0).

For assistance with using the data quality framework to assess your datasets, contact the NT Office on 08 8943 2105 or email nt.statistics@abs.gov.au.

Available Soon



AVAILABLE SOON

Regional Statistics 2009

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey Results Out Soon Selected Publication Release Dates

REGIONAL STATISTICS 2009

The 2009 *Northern Territory Regional Statistics* publication has undergone a considerable redesign in consultation with users. The new-look publication will be available quarterly as an electronic magazine. A combination of data cubes (spreadsheets), links to data sources, and feature articles will be prepared each quarter and presented in an easy-to-access format concentrating on particular topics. It is planned that the November quarter will contain information on NT geography, population, and the environment and also a feature article focusing on this data. Each quarter will build on the previous quarter by adding more topics and feature articles.

The first issue will be available on November 17. For last year's issue, see *Regional Statistics, Northern Territory, 2008* (cat. no. 1362.7).

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SOCIAL SURVEY RESULTS OUT SOON

The first release of data from the *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, 2008* (NATSISS) will be released in late October 2009. The NATSISS provides information about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population of Australia on a range of areas of social concern including family and culture, health, education, law and justice, labour force and housing. In response to emerging information needs, the survey was expanded to improve the availability of data about Indigenous children. The first release will provide summary indicators from the 2008 NATSISS for three population groups by both state and remoteness: persons aged 15 years and over; children aged 4-14 years; and children aged 0-3 years.

Requests for more detailed data or additional items can be made through the ABS consultancy service on 1300 135 070. More information about the conduct of the survey, scope and data outputs are available at the [ABS website](#).

SELECTED PUBLICATION RELEASE DATES

Release Date	Publication Title	Catalogue Number
Demography		
October	Births, Australia, 2008	<u>3301.0</u>

Social

21 October	Arts and Culture in Australia: A Statistical Overview, 2009	<u>4172.0</u>
23 October	Sports and Physical Recreation: A Statistical Overview, Australia, 2009 (Edition 1)	<u>4156.0</u>
28 October	Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities, Australia, April 2009	<u>4901.0</u>
6 November	Tobacco Smoking in Australia: A Snapshot, 2007-08	<u>4831.0.55.001</u>
6 November	Housing Occupancy and Costs, Australia, 2007-08	<u>4130.0</u>
20 November	Housing Mobility and Conditions, Australia, 2007-08	<u>4130.0.55.002</u>
20 November	Environmental Issues: Waste Management and Transport Use, March 2009	<u>4602.0.55.002</u>
24 November	Education and Work, Australia, May 2009	<u>6227.0</u>
4 December	Children and Youth News, December 2009	<u>4105.0</u>
10 December	Prisoners in Australia, 2009	<u>4517.0</u>
23 December	Australia's Environment: Issues and Trends, December 2009	<u>4613.0</u>

Economic

17 November	Motor Vehicle Census, Australia, 31 March 2009	<u>9309.0</u>
8 December	Australian System of National Accounts, 2008-09	<u>5204.0</u>
11 December	Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, 2008-09	<u>5220.0</u>
24 December	Australian National Accounts: Financial Accounts, September 2009	<u>5232.0</u>

Other

29 October	Australian Bureau of Statistics -- Annual Report, 2008-09	<u>1001.0</u>
29 October	Australian Statistics Advisory Council -- Annual Report, 2008-09	<u>1002.0</u>

Please note some publication dates may change after the publication of this newsletter. For all publication release dates please refer to the [ABS Release Calendar](#).

Contacts



CONTACTS

Call for Contributions and Feedback, ABS National Information and Referral Service (NIRS)

Call for Contributions and Feedback

Inform NT is a quarterly newsletter produced by the ABS Northern Territory Office designed to promote statistical developments relevant to the NT. If there is something you would like to see included in future issues or if you know of something that would be of interest to Inform NT readers please let us know.

Likewise, we would like to hear from you if you have any feedback on the content of the newsletter or suggestions for how it may be improved.

Contributions and feedback can be directed to the Client and Statistical Services Branch of the ABS NT Office, phone 08 8943 2105 or email nt.statistics@abs.gov.au.

ABS National Information and Referral Service (NIRS)

NIRS is the first point of contact for all your statistical and publication enquiries.

Telephone: 1300 135 070

Email: client.services@abs.gov.au

About this Release

Inform NT is a newsletter produced by the Northern Territory office of the ABS. It provides information about new developments, publications, seminars, training and reviews.

Feature Article



FEATURE ARTICLE

Baskets on a Budget: The Introduction of the Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index

Your Contribution to the PBLCI and CPI

List of Previous Feature Articles

BASKETS ON A BUDGET: THE INTRODUCTION OF THE PENSIONER AND BENEFICIARY LIVING COST INDEX.

Australians interested in domestic price fluctuations have traditionally turned to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as a way of measuring a range of goods and services used by metropolitan households. Based on the price of an identical 'basket of goods and services' each quarter, it gives a good general indication of price inflation for the household sector as a whole. While the CPI has many uses, it was not designed as a cost of living index and does not specifically reflect the out-of-pocket expenses of pensioners and other government beneficiaries.

The government's Pension Review Report concluded that an alternative measure of price change was needed that was more responsive to specific changes in pensioners' purchasing power. In response to the Review, the government funded the Australian Bureau of Statistics to produce a new index that more specifically reflects changes in the living costs of pensioners and other households receiving income support from the government: the main government income support being Age, Veterans Affairs, Sole Parents, Unemployment, Sickness, and Family payments. The government has indicated that it will use the index to adjust base pension rates where it is higher than the CPI.

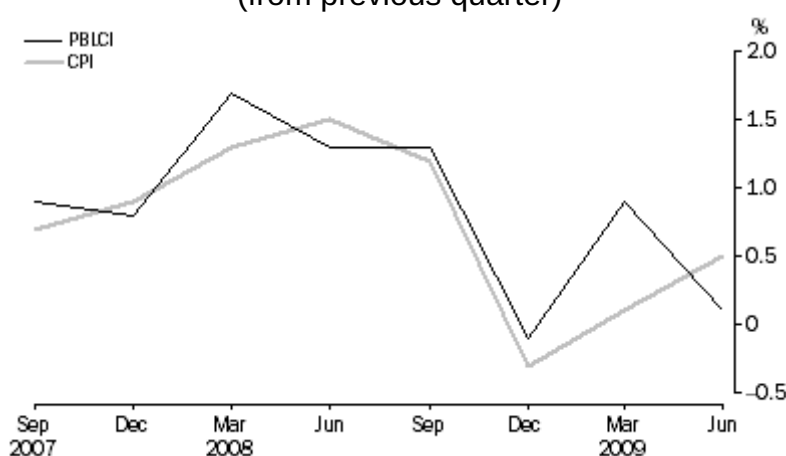
The new *Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index* (cat. no. 6467.0) (PBLCI) has now been released, and has been calculated back to June 2007. The PBLCI measures the

quarterly changes in the price of a 'basket' of goods and services for all the capital cities, including Darwin. The PBLCI does not currently include a capital city breakdown. Over time, the ABS will progressively improve the Index to better reflect the price changes experienced by pensioners and beneficiaries.

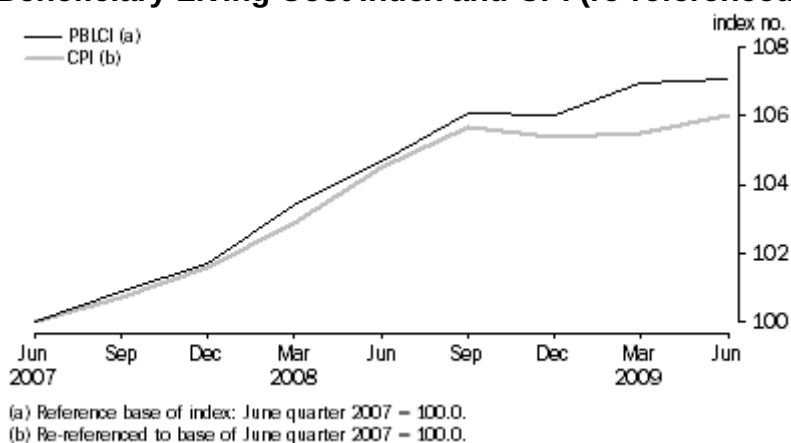
Since the June quarter 2007, the PBLCI has risen 7.1%, compared to 6.0% for the CPI. In the June quarter 2009 the PBLCI increased by 0.1%. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose by 0.5% over the same period. For the PBLCI, household contents and services (+2.2%) made the greatest contribution to the quarterly rise due to increases in furniture and furnishings. Transportation (+1.8%) also saw increases for the quarter as a result of rises in automotive fuel. The most significant offsets were provided by financial and insurance services (-6.3%) and food (-1.4%) due to falls in interest charges and fruit and vegetable prices respectively.

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Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index and CPI, All groups - Percentage change (from previous quarter)



Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index and CPI (re-referenced), index numbers



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To represent households whose principle income is government pensions and benefits, the PBLCI will source the price measurements from the CPI, with some exceptions such as interest and insurance charges, and use a different weighting pattern to construct the Index. The expenditure patterns of pensioners and beneficiaries can be quite different to the CPI (which is designed to represent the household sector as a whole). For example, "food" has a higher relative weight in the PBLCI than in the CPI; however education carries a very small weight in the PBLCI. Some items from the CPI are completely excluded from the PBLCI. For example, only concession prices are selected for some health items, transport fares and telephony charges, whereas the CPI includes both concession and full price charges. It

should be noted that neither the CPI or the PBLCI are indicative of a true cost of living index since, for practical reasons, they are based on a fixed basket and don't reflect the way consumers alter their purchasing habits to account for price fluctuations.

Like the CPI, the PBLCI measures changes to retail prices in capital cities. It is not designed to measure price levels; rather its purpose is to measure changes in prices over time. Although price levels in country regions often differ from those in metropolitan areas (some higher and others lower), the factors influencing price movements generally tend to be similar. Therefore the PBLCI can be expected to provide a reasonable indication of the changes in prices for the reference population in Australia as a whole in the longer term.

Further information is available in the [*Information Paper: Introduction of the Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index, Australia*](#) (cat. no. 6466.0.).

For more information on the CPI, see our video tutorial '[How to Find Consumer Price Index \(CPI\) Data](#)'

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YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE CPI AND PBLCI

The Household Expenditure Survey (HES) is one of the most important social surveys conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The data collected from the HES establishes the spending habits of Australian households, which is used as a starting point for selecting the 'basket of goods and services' for the CPI and the PBLCI.

The ABS is currently conducting the 2009-10 HES around Australia. The HES is designed to identify the levels and patterns of expenditure of private households on a comprehensive range of goods and services purchased for private use. The HES also determines how these levels and patterns vary according to income levels and other characteristics of households, such as size and composition, location and principal source of cash income.

This information is used to update the weighting pattern of the [*Consumer Price Index, Australia*](#) (cat. no. 6401.0) and the [*Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index*](#) (cat. no. 6467.0)

For more information about HES and participation in other ABS Surveys, see the [Current Household Surveys program](#).

LIST OF PREVIOUS FEATURE ARTICLES

[Diagnosing Data Quality: How Healthy are your Datasets?](#) - June 2009

[Towards 2011: Gearing up for the next Census](#) - March 2009